

ask that following disposition of the nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Kraninger nomination and the time be equally divided in the usual form until 1:45 p.m.; further, that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the Kraninger nomination as under the previous order; finally, that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to urge the majority leader to bring to the floor S. 3649, the First Step Act, which I have cosponsored. This bipartisan legislation, introduced by Senators GRASSLEY and DURBIN, includes positive prison reforms that the House passed by a 360–59 vote, combined with Senate-added provisions on sentencing reform that have passed out of the Judiciary Committee on a bipartisan basis.

Senators on both sides of the aisle agree that our criminal justice system is broken and badly needs repair.

In my own State of Maryland, we know the importance of criminal justice reform after the death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore Police Department custody in 2015. Baltimore is a good example of the necessary Federal and State partnership we need in order to reform the criminal justice system. When I am talking about the criminal justice system, I am not only talking about the so-called back end of the system, which involves sentencing, corrections, and release from prison. I am talking about the “front end” of the system, which involves relations between the community and police and often the first interaction between our citizens and law enforcement.

In Baltimore, the U.S. Department of Justice initiated a Federal “pattern or practice” inquiry at the request of the city of Baltimore and the Federal congressional delegation. This investigation led to a comprehensive report finding a pattern and practice of unconstitutional arrests and policing in Baltimore that disproportionately affected minority residents, particularly the African-American residents of Baltimore.

Baltimore City and the Justice Department ultimately agreed to a consent decree and are now under supervision by the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. This will entail a multiyear process of overhauling the police department to finally give the citizens of Baltimore the police department they deserve, using the “guardian” and not the “warrior” model, as recommended by President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

This fall I visited the headquarters of the Baltimore Ravens in Owings Mills, MD, in Baltimore County. I am a Baltimore resident and live in Baltimore County and, of course, am a proud Ravens fan. On that day, I had come to discuss criminal justice reform. I wanted to hear directly from the Ravens players about their insights into the criminal justice system, and they shared their stories involving their friends and family with me.

I am pleased that several Ravens players and team executives wrote a letter earlier this week to Senator MCCONNELL asking him to bring this critical legislation to the floor. The letter reads: “The undersigned players and executives of the Baltimore Ravens write to voice our support for the First Step Act, a bill which has the potential to bring transformative and much needed change to our criminal justice system. Criminal justice is an issue that deeply affects our community in Baltimore, as well as the nation as a whole. Not only will this legislation strengthen our nation's criminal justice system, but it enjoys the backing of an incredibly diverse group of supporters.”

Indeed, this legislation is endorsed by both law enforcement and civil rights groups. Law enforcement groups endorsing this legislation include the Fraternal Order of Police, the National District Attorneys Association, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. Civil rights groups endorsing this legislation include the ACLU and Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. President Trump has endorsed this legislation, which has a growing number of bipartisan Senate cosponsors.

The legislation includes key sentencing reform provisions added by the Senate to the House-passed measure. First, it expands the so-called safety valve, which allows judges to sentence below the mandatory minimum for qualified low-level nonviolent drug offenders who cooperate with the government. Second, it makes retroactive the application of the Fair Sentencing Act, in which Congress addressed the crack-powder sentencing disparity, and allows individuals affected by this disparity to petition for sentence reductions. Third, it reforms the two-strikes and three-strikes laws, by reducing the second strike mandatory minimum of 20 years to 15 years and reducing the third strike mandatory minimum of life in prison to 25 years. Finally, the

legislation eliminates the so-called stacking provision in the U.S. Code, which helps ensure that sentencing enhancements for repeat offenses apply only to true repeat offenders. The legislation clarifies that sentencing enhancements cannot unfairly be “stacked,” for example, by applying to conduct within the same indictment.

This legislation marks the first time that the Fraternal Order of Police, the largest police union, has ever supported a criminal justice reform bill. At law enforcement's request, the bill prohibits time credits for individuals convicted of a fentanyl trafficking offense, as well as bars time credits for individuals convicted of repeatedly possessing or using a firearm in relation to a violent or drug trafficking crime.

On the prison reform side, this legislation includes several positive reforms from the House-passed FIRST STEP Act. The bill makes a good time credit fix and revises the good-time credit law to accurately reflect congressional intent by allowing prisoners to earn 54 days of credit per year, rather than 47 days. The bill prohibits shackling pregnant prisoners and requires healthcare products be provided to incarcerated women. The bill requires prisoners be placed within 500 driving miles of their home and provides additional phone, video conferencing, and visitation privileges. The bill expands evidence-based opioid and heroin abuse treatment for inmates. The bill expands compassionate release under the Second Chance Act and expedites compassionate release applications.

The revised Senate bill also includes several prison reforms beyond what were included in the House-passed bill. The bill establishes an Independent Review Committee of outside experts to assist in the development of the risk and needs assessment system. The National Institute of Justice would select a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with expertise in risk and needs assessments to host the IRC. This added guardrail will help to ensure the risk and needs assessment system is evidence-based and minimize racial disparities.

It allows the use of earned credits for supervised release in the community, such as halfway houses or home confinement. The bill also would permit individuals in home confinement to participate in family-related activities that facilitate the prisoner's successful reentry.

It effectively ends Federal juvenile solitary confinement, and limits the discretion of the Bureau of Prisons to deny release to individuals who meet all eligibility criteria.

Let us take this first step to reform our broken criminal justice system by passing this legislation during this session.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AT ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in recognizing Arlington High School in Oregon and its remarkable career and technical education program. Thanks to the leadership of district staff and the support of the community, students at Arlington High are better prepared for their post high school careers.

Career and technical education provides students of all ages with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to succeed in future careers. Students participating in career and technical education programs graduate high school at higher rates than average and are better prepared to get good-paying jobs beyond the classroom.

The HonkerTech Center at Arlington High School offers many disciplines to its students, based on interests and career choices. These include metal fabrication, digital design and production, and mechanics. Students learn business concepts and skills, like developing a project budget and writing a proposal and using accounting software. Students are accountable and responsible for designing their projects. They also have an opportunity to gain practical, real-world experience working with regional and international customers on custom products. The impact of this program extends beyond the classroom, making sure that students have the skills they need to become lifelong learners, even after they graduate.

I am proud to recognize the career and technical education program at Arlington High School and the good work being done to prepare Oregon students for success after graduation. This is what I call doing things the Oregon way.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES DAVIS

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to honor an American hero and a fellow Louisianan. In just a few days, Charles Davis, from Toledo Bend Lake, LA, will celebrate his 93rd birthday. Charles is a World War II veteran who gave many years of his life in the service of his country.

Charles Davis was 16 years old when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Like many Americans, the attack on Pearl Harbor led Davis to serve his country by enlisting in the Navy. While just a teenager, his service in the military took him around the globe, fighting for the country he loves.

During his time in the war, Charles served on a ship that was bombed while out at sea. He spent 37 hours adrift alongside 1,200 soldiers, with nothing to keep them alive other than their life vests. Charles thought he was going to die that day, but after 37 hours in the

ocean, he was rescued. Nearly 300 of the men in the water with him did not make it. Among the men who died that day was another American hero, Charles's brother, Albert Anthony Davis.

Charles served in the military for 8 years and after the war returned to Louisiana to serve as a firefighter. As Charles celebrates his 93rd birthday, I want to honor his life and dedication to his country. He risked his life in service to his country and lost a brother and many comrades during the war.

Mr. Davis, we are grateful for your service, and I would like to wish you a very happy birthday and many blessings in the years to come.●

REMEMBERING REBECCA "BECKY" WEICHHAND

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today, along with Senator ROY BLUNT of Missouri, I wish to honor Rebecca "Becky" Weichhand, a fierce and tireless advocate for adoption.

From an early age, Becky knew she wanted to be a lawyer to help children, and for almost 10 years, she pursued that dream as the director of policy and later as the executive director of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, CCAI. As Senate co-chairs of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, we had the privilege of working with Becky and witnessed firsthand how her work changed the lives of children around the world. Becky was a mentor to foster youth and advised 10 classes of foster youth interns on Capitol Hill, who helped to research and develop policy proposals informed by their own experience to help our Nation's foster children. She also led efforts to help Members of Congress promote adoption and foster care around the world, organizing nine domestic and international delegation trips. In addition, Becky spearheaded the Angels in Adoption Program, which honors organizations and people who have had an extraordinary impact on children, their families, and communities across the country. During her tenure, 1,257 people and organizations were recognized with this honor.

Becky dedicated her career to the belief that every child deserves a loving and stable home. She was instrumental in efforts to preserve the adoption tax credit, including working to establish a coalition of more than 150 organizations and advocating to make the adoption tax credit permanent in 2012.

Becky's faith, compassion, and kindness were evident in everything she did, and she will be dearly missed. Her life was a blessing to many, and we will honor it by continuing her work of bringing loving families together with children in need.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary

of Highland Park, MI. Situated in Wayne County of southeast Michigan, Highland Park is endowed with a rich history of innovation as the "birthplace of mass production." It is also the site of the Nation's first urban highway, and was fondly referred to as the "City of Trees" for its beautiful foliage.

In its infancy, the settlement that would eventually become Highland Park underwent two name changes, Nabor and then Whitewood, respectively, before it was incorporated as a village in 1889 and then as a city in the early 20th century.

The small farming community experienced an economic boom in 1910, when Henry Ford opened his first Model T factory, now recognized as a historical site. The opening of the plant paved the way for new infrastructure, which changed the rapidly growing Highland Park Village's landscape from rural to urban. The news of abundant economic opportunity in the village spread nationally and internationally. Immigrants came to Highland Park aspiring to earn the impressive \$5-a-day wage that Henry Ford's factories offered, while new residents traveled from across the Nation to the village in hopes of becoming newly minted members of the middle-class. The population grew from a little under 500 residents at the top of the 20th century to over 50,000 in 1930.

The city of Detroit, Highland Park Village's southern neighbor, also began to expand. From the early 1800s and into the early part of the 1900s, the city of Detroit's footprint increased as the city moved to annex surrounding townships. To prevent annexation by the bustling city of Detroit, Highland Park officially incorporated as a city in 1918. Detroit continued to enlarge its borders, ultimately encircling the city of Highland Park, leading to the city within a city phenomenon seen today.

Before Highland Park became the epicenter of production, with the presence of Ford and later Chrysler, it was appropriately named the City of Trees, for its abundance of elms, reminiscent of a forest. Beautiful arrays of elm trees lined neighborhood streets as trees were planted in front of every home. Unfortunately, the once striking display of greenery diminished toward the 1970s, due to the spread of Dutch elm disease, which impacted surrounding cities as well.

In another historic first, Highland Park was the site of the country's first urban highway, the Davison Freeway. Construction began in 1941 and was expeditiously completed in 1942 to ease transport for Defense manufacturers assisting in the Nation's "Arsenal of Democracy" during World War II. The Davison Freeway greatly improved the flow of traffic to and from the city of Detroit.

The Highland Park community includes a diverse and hard-working population, and many notable figures in government, sports, and popular culture have called Highland Park home.